

CHAPTER 7

SECTION 5.5

THERAPEUTIC SHOES FOR DIABETICS

Issue Date: February 27, 1996

Authority: [32 CFR 199.2](#) and [32 CFR 199.4](#)

I. PROCEDURE CODE

06954

II. POLICY

Coverage of extra-depth shoes with inserts or custom molded shoes with inserts for individuals with diabetes.

III. COVERAGE LIMITATION

A. For each individual, coverage of the footwear and inserts is limited to one of the following within one calendar year:

1. One pair of custom molded shoes (including inserts provided with such shoes) and two pairs of multidensity inserts, or

2. One pair of extra-depth shoes (not including inserts provided with such shoes) and three pairs of multidensity inserts.

3. Modification of custom-molded or extra-depth shoes may be substituted for one pair of inserts, other than the initial pair of inserts. The most common modifications available are:

- a. Rigid rocker bottoms
- b. Roller bottoms
- c. Metatarsal bars
- d. Wedges
- e. Offset heels

B. The physician who is managing the beneficiary's systemic diabetic condition must:

1. Document that the patient has diabetes
 2. Document that the patient has one or more of the following conditions:
 - a. Previous amputation of the foot or part of the foot
 - b. History of previous foot ulceration
 - c. Pre-ulcerative callus formation, or peripheral neuropathy with a history of callus formation, foot deformity, or poor circulation; and
 - d. Certify that the patient is being treated under a comprehensive plan of care for his diabetes and needs therapeutic shoes.
- C. Following certification by the physician managing the patient's systemic diabetic condition, a podiatrist or other qualified physician, knowledgeable in the fitting of the therapeutic shoes and inserts, may prescribe the necessary footwear.

NOTE: The footwear must be fitted and furnished by a podiatrist or other qualified practitioner such as a pedorthist, orthotist, or prosthetist. The certifying physician may not furnish the therapeutic shoes unless a specialist as identified in this [paragraph III.C.](#) is not available.

IV. EFFECTIVE DATE May 1, 1993.

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